

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133732
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA DISTRIBUTION ONLY
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O 092115Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133732

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MASS, LE, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: BEIRUT 2743

1. FOLLOWING INFORMAL COMMENTS ARE UNCLEARED WITH OTHER
OFFICES OR DOD, AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE FULLY AUTHORITA-
TIVE.

2. WE CAN OBTAIN FAIRLY RAPIDLY AT DOLS 225 PER MAN THE
UNIFORMS (INCLUDES THREE SETS OF FATIGUES, BUT NO UNDERWEAR,
WITH HELMETS, BOOTS AND FULL PERSONAL FIELD KIT, WITH PACK,
FRAME, ENTRENCHING TOOL, CANTEEN, ETC). THUS WE COULD
PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR 5,000 MEN FOR ABOUT DOLS 1,125,000
EXCLUSIVE OF TRANSPORT. IN SHORT, WE COULD PUT TOGETHER A
FAIRLY GOOD PACKAGE FOR LESS THAN DOLS 1.5 MILLION.
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3. WE WILL EXPLORE WITH CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS TOMORROW,
AS I MENTIONED ON THE TELEPHONE, THESE AND OTHER MATTERS.
WE MIGHT RPT MIGHT SOUND OUT USE OF MESRF FOR GRANT USE;
THERE IS CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE ON HILL TO USE OF
MESRF FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, BUT UNIFORMS ARE SPECIAL.

4. WE HAVE TENTATIVE COMMITMENT FOR ADDITIONAL DOLS 20 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS, TO SUPPLEMENT THE DOLS 5 MILLION ALREADY ASSIGNED TO LEBANON IN FY 77. WE WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE TO RESCIND ALL UNCOMMITTED FMS CREDITS BY THE END OF JUNE, AS YOU KNOW. WE NEED THEREFORE FORMAL REQUEST AND EQUIPMENT LISTS. WITH RECEIPT YOUR SIGNAL, PENTAGON CAN PROBABLY CRANK UP AN INCONSPICUOUS THREE-MAN TEAM TO GO TO BEIRUT.

4. IF YOU ARE SEEING BOUTROS OR OTHERS IN NEXT DAY OR SO, BEFORE WE REPORT RESULTS OF SOUNDINGS ON HILL, SUGGEST YOU NOT RPT NOT GET ANYONE'S HOPES UP FOR A QUICK GRANT FOR UNIFORMS IN FY 77. IDEA TO PROMOTE IS USE OF FMS CREDITS RIGHT AWAY.

5. WE WILL TRY TO SOUND OUT HILL STAFFERS ON SUPPLEMENTAL ONE-TIME GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 78 OF, SAY, DOLS 25 MILLION, SUPPLEMENTED BY FMS CREDITS, AND PROCEEDING WITH FMS CREDITS EXCLUSIVELY IN FUTURE YEARS.

6. IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDED THOUGHTS FOR OUR HILL CONSULTATIONS, PLEASE CABLE STADIS FOR DRAPER AND VELIOTES, OR TRY SECURE PHONE, VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE133732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770206-0669
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770672/aaaacley.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6a17ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 2743
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2210206
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MASS, LE, US
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a17ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009